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LOCAL NEWS

Cosplay Contest brings families together for costume fun

By [Titus Falodun](#) of the Abilene Reporter News

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After months alone, forging costumes out of yarn and foam, nearly 60 participants made Lib-Con's third annual Cosplay Contest standing room only on Saturday.

In the tightly packed auditorium at Abilene's main library, adults and children alike dressed up as characters from books, movies and video games took the stage to see who could shine brightest under the lights and win the judges over.

"Did you make this yourself," a woman asked Micah Davis, 17, who was donning his Halo: Reach video game-inspired Noble 6 costume sans his helmet after he won first place in the teen division.

"I started in the middle of January and finished it this week," he said. "I made the entire thing out of EVA foam floor mats. I got patterns off the Internet. I cut them out and glued them all together."

Micah was joined by his sister Laci Davis, 20, who looked red carpet and runway ready with her Princess Zelda gown.

She said the most difficult part of her outfit to make were the shoulder pauldrons.

"I was putting foam together, putting the designs in with lace and hot glue, painting (and) making it fit right."

When asked what costume she liked aside from her brothers and her own, she said "Luigi was adorable."

Although Andrew Walraven, 5, took second place in the children's division in his first Cosplay Contest, he drew a wave of ooh's and ah's when he ran from behind the curtains, jumping up and down in his green-colored Luigi outfit.

His mother, Jodie Walraven, 30, explained that when they play the Mario video game, she is player one (Mario) and he is player two (Luigi).

She also matched his green with her Zelda video game-inspired Link costume she knitted herself.

Ann Mount, the organizer of the event wearing her Waldo outfit, said the Lib-Con event has been amazing again because of the great costumes and turnout.

"The Cosplay Contest is actually the epitome of what we do," she said. "It's like our final program and it's the one that's the most attended."

She added she started the event as a means to bring families together.

"I wanted to have family programming that we could spread across all three (library) locations," Mount said. "When we have brothers and sisters who are entering the Cosplay Contest together, I mean that's just amazing."

Trent Rector, volunteer and Mount's boyfriend, showed support in his "Ghostbusters" movie-inspired costume.

The winners for the teen division were: 1. Micah Davis as Noble 6, 2. Brianna Douglas as Rystall Sant, 3. Jillian Ruiz as Harley Quinn.

The winners in the children's division were: 1. Ethan Emery as Steampunk Plague Doctor, 2. Andrew Walraven as Luigi, 3. Eleanor Emery as Pearl.

The winners in the adult division were: 1. Whitney Massey as Toriel, 2. Laci Davis as Zelda, 3. Stuart Grantham as Deadpool.

Twitter: ARN_Titus

About Titus Falodun

Titus Falodun is the breaking news multi-media journalist for the Abilene Reporter-News.

[f Facebook](#) [@ARN_Titus](#) [✉ titus.falodun@reporternews.com](mailto:titus.falodun@reporternews.com) [📞 325-676-6721](tel:325-676-6721)

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